

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W
-----112168 150826Z /64

R 150116Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0040
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00917

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MARR, XF
SUBJECT: SAFETY OF UN OBSERVERS (UNMO'S) IN LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY UN OF REPS OF COUNTRIES THAT PROVIDE OBSERVERS TO UNTSO MARCH 14, LANSKY (UNSEC) DISCUSSED SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION BRIEFLY WITH MISOFF. HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO BEIRUT AND EMPHASIZED HIGH MORALE AND DETERMINATION TO CARRY ON SHOWN BY THE UNMO'S, AS WELL AS EMBARRASSMENT AND FRUSTRATION THEY, AS PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS, FEEL OVER HUMILIATING CIRCUMSTANCES TO WHICH THEY (AND THUS UN ITSELF) ARE SUBJECTED.

2. IN DISCUSSING DIFFICULTY IN FINDING MEANS TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE SITUATION, LANSKY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ONLY ISRAELIS HAVE POWER TO INFLUENCE EVENTS DECISIVELY. HE CLAIMED INDIVIDUAL IDF OFFICERS HAVE THEMSELVES SAID AS MUCH TO HIM, CITING FACT CHRISTIAN FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON ARE DEPENDENT ON ISRAELIS FOR MOST SUPPLIES.
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LANSKY REALIZED THAT IF ISRAELIS TURNED OFF SUPPLY OF VEHICLES, RADIOS AND OTHER NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT, IT WOULD PROBABLY ONLY ENCOURAGE MORE THEFTS FROM UN. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE ONE THING NOT AVAILABLE FROM UN IS WEAPONS, WHICH ISRAELIS ARE ALSO SUPPLYING. HE BELIEVES THAT A THREAT TO CUT THIS SUPPLY WOULD PROMPTLY HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE ACTIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FORCES. YOUNG

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